



THE IMAGE OF EXCELLENCE

NEWS RELEASE

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WORLD'S FIRST SHIPBOARD CT INSTALLED

CLEVELAND - A leading U.S. medical diagnostic imaging manufacturer has made history with the installation of the world's first shipboard Computed Tomography (CAT) Scanner in a seagoing vessel. A 1200SX CT Scanner, manufactured in Cleveland, Ohio by Picker International, will provide the USNS Comfort with diagnostic capabilities never before available at sea.

Providing acute medical and surgical care, the Comfort represents one of the most modern and complex medical facilities ever conceived. The CT Scanner significantly enhances the radiological services available aboard the ship by providing vital diagnostic capabilities for specialized studies and often, obviating the need for exploratory surgery.

CT incorporates the most advanced technology in electronics and computer science, resulting in a painless and safe way to assess the body. Since the advent of the x-ray in the 1800's, CT is recognized as one of the most important contributions to medicine in this century due to its diagnostic precision and accuracy.

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The successful installation and operation of the scanner required special engineering from Picker headquarters in Cleveland. "A high performance and extremely reliable CT scanner was needed to operate under potentially adverse maritime conditions," said Lee Smith, Vice President, Federal Business Programs, Picker International. "In response, Picker engaged the joint efforts of our Federal Business Group, CT Engineering and the Picker Service Division to ensure the system's optimum performance and reliability at sea."

Picker has a proud heritage in military product development dating back to World War I with the development of a self-contained, Army bedside X-ray field unit in 1914. The U.S. Government presented Picker with the coveted Army and Navy "E" Award in August, 1942, for its development and manufacture of the World War II Military X-ray Mobile field unit. Picker will be supplying a second 1200SX Scanner to the Navy's initial hospital ship, the USNS Mercy, later in the year.

Picker International is a world leader in the design and manufacture of diagnostic imaging systems including Computed Tomography (CT), Magnetic Resonance (MR), X-Ray, Digital Imaging, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine, Military Imaging Systems and a wide range of health care products.

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